

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1381

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

COMUSFORAZ

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0026

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUB: AZOREAN DEVELOPMENTS : DECREE LAW ON POWERS OF THE JUNT

REF: PONTA DELGADA 009

ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA REGIONAL TOLD US ON JANUARY 14
THAT THE GOP HAS AGREED TO MODIFY ITS CONTROVERSIAL DECREE LAW SO THA
T IT
GRANTS THE JUNTA THE AUTHORITY IT REQUESTED. ONLY ISSUE WHICH REMAINS

IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE JUNTA AND THE GOP IS THE
QUESTION OF WHO APPOINTS THE JUNTA AND THE JUNTA SOURCE ACHNOWL-
EDHED THAT THIS IT IS A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE OF LITTLE PRACTICAL
CONSEQUENCE. THE NEW VERSION OF THE DECREE
LAW WILL GIVE THE JUNTA "ALMOST" MINISTERIAL POWERS. THE SOURCE
SAID THE NEXT BATTLE THE AZORES FACES WILL BE TO GET
APPROVAL A STRONG STATUTE OF AUTONOMY.

2. COMMENT: THE GOP'S DECISION TO ACCEDE TO THE UNTA'S DEMANDS
IS MAJOR STEP ON THE ROAD TO AUTONOMY. THE
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JUNTA'S FIRM STAND AND SUCCESS IN GETTING

THE GOP TO CHANGE ITS MIND WILL STRENGTHEN
THE POSTION OF THOSE WHO FAVOR AUTONOMY OVER INDEPENDENCE.
WITH THE BATTLE OF DECREE LAW WON, AZOREAN LEADERS WILL TURN THEIR
ATTENTION TO FIGHTING FOR A STATUTE OF AUTONOMY AT LEAST AS STRONG
AS THE CURRENT DRAFT.
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